

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07820 160651Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

DRC-01 /078 W

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R 160601Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1164

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 472

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EAID, LA

SUBJ: LAOS ECONOMIC MISSION TO ALGERIA

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT VISIT OF PGNU DELEGATION TO ALGERIA, PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE ADVISED DELEGATION TO JOIN NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND INTIMATED THAT BI-LATERAL OR MULTI-LATERAL AID FROM NON-ALIGNED NATIONS DEPENDS ON PGNU'S VOTING DURING CURRENT UNGA FOR THE SEATING OF GRUNK AND REMOVAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. USAID DIR/ECON COUNSELLOR CALLED AT HIS REQUEST OCTOBER 16 ON SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, HOUMPHANH SAIGNASITH, WHO WAS DEPUTY CHIEF OF PGNU AID-SEEKING MISSION TO ALGERIA, PRC AND NORTH KOREA. SOTH PHETRASY, PL MINISTER OF PLAN/NATIONAL ECONOMY, WAS CHIEF OF THIS MISSION.

2. HOUMPHANH STATED PGNU'S MISSION TO ALGIERS UNFORTUNATELY ARRIVED WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES DUE
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 07820 160651Z

SOME FOUL-UP IN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ALGERIAN AND

LAOTIAN AMBASSADORS WHO ARE NEITHER RESIDENTS IN VIENTIANE NOR ALGIERS. AFTER ADJUSTING TO UNANNOUNCED ARRIVAL, ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT TREATED PGNU DELEGATION COURTEOUSLY AND ARRANGED 30-MINUTE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE. PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED LAOS IN HAVING FORMED GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION AND CAUTIONED LAOS TO PROTECT ITS COALITION GOVERNMENT BY BEING NON-ALIGNED. BOUMEDIENNE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THREE BIG POWERS (RUSSIA, CHINA, U.S.) SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY EXCESSIVE INFLUENCES IN LAOS, THAT THESE POWERS ENDANGERED LAO NON-ALIGNMENT.

3. REGARDING INDOCHINA, BOUMEDIENNE SUPPOSEDLY STATED THAT POLITICAL ALIGNMENT WITHIN INDOCHINA STATES IS THEIR BUSINESS AND IF RUSSIA, CHINESE AND AMERICAN INFLUENCE WOULD DECREASE OR BE ELIMINATED, THE CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE COULD SETTLE THEIR AFFAIRS BETWEEN THEMSELVES PEACEFULLY WITHOUT OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. WHEN SOTH AND HOUMPHANH BROUGHT OUT QUESTION OF AID, BOUMEDIENNE EXPLAINED PRINCIPLE OF BEING MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED NATION IS INVOLVED AND IF PGNU ACCEPTS POLICIES OF NON-ALIGNMENT GROUP OF THESE NATIONS AID COULD BE GIVEN FURNISHED EITHER BI-LATERALLY OR MULTI-LATERALLY. TO BE MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND TO BE BENEFICIARY THEIR AID INTERNATIONAL POLICIES HAVE TO BE COORDINATED AND ACCEPTED BY ALL NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. PGNU, BOUMEDIENNE REMARKED, COULD GIVE PROOF OF ITS SINCERE NON-ALIGNMENT BY VOTING IN CURRENT UNGA FOR SEATING OF GRUNK IN UN AND FOR FORTHCOMING ALGERIAN RESOLUTION TO DIS-ESTABLISH UN COMMAND AND REMOVAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM SOTH KOREA. BOUMEDIENNE ALSO RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHING OF RESIDENT AMBASSADORS TO PERMIT BOTH COUNTRIES TO HAVE MORE DIRECT DIALOGUE AND CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT EACH OTHER.

4. HOUMPHANH STATED HE AND SOTH ARE NOW PREPARING A REPORT ABOUT THEIR TRIP TO ALGIERS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE NEXT CABINET MEETING. HOUMPHANH WAS NOT SANGUINE WHETHER BASED ON THEIR REPORT PL MINISTERS WILL CONTINUE TO AGREE FOR PGNU TO ABSTAIN ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 07820 160651Z

FORTHCOMING CAMBODIAN VOTE IN UNGA.

5. WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, RETURNING TO LAOS OCTOBER 16, AMBASSADOR WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH HIM AND OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH OFFICIALS TO KEEP PGNU FROM NOT, REPEAT, NOT CHANGING THEIR DECISION TO ABSTAIN ON CAMBODIAN UNGA VOTE. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI07820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-0943
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741040/aaaabimk.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAOS ECONOMIC MISSION TO ALGERIA SUMMARY: DURING RECENT VISIT OF PGNU DELEGATION TO
TAGS: ECON, EAID, LA, (BOUMEDIENNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005